



Paula Tate Brown

June 5, 1953 - April 29, 2025

Paula Tate Brown, 71, passed away April 29, 2025, following a courageous battle with cancer. She has fought the fight, kept the faith, and won the race. A native of Greenville County, South Carolina, daughter of Harry Lee Tate, Sr. of Taylors, South Carolina and the late Polly Howard Jones Tate, she was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church. Upon graduating from Greer High School, Class of 1971, she earned her Master's degree in secondary education from the University of South Carolina. Early in her teaching tenure, she served as a professor at the University of South Carolina and Lander University. Paula ultimately retired from Greenville County Schools, having taught Chemistry for over 35 years, many of those at Blue Ridge and Hillcrest High Schools. With her witty ability to teach the complex nature of chemistry, she was a true inspiration to her students; many will never forget "Ms. Brown." A loving daughter, sister, aunt, and friend, Paula had the gift to brighten any room and make anyone smile; she will be truly missed.

Surviving, in addition to her father, are a sister, Bonne Tate Johnson and her husband, Randy, of Taylors, South Carolina; three nieces, Laura Johnson Sirois and her husband, Roger, of Greer, South Carolina, Lisa T. Curwen and her husband, Colt, of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and Cayce M. Tate of Charlotte, North Carolina; and four great nieces and nephews, Derrick Sirois, Dalaney Sirois, Ryland Curwen, and Tatum Curwen.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Harry "Lee" Tate, Jr. and William "Bill" Howard Tate, and a sister, Andrea Tate Smith.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 2025, at The Wood Mortuary Chapel conducted by Rev. David Smith. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery.

Visitation will be held 12:30-1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, 2025, at The Wood Mortuary.

The family will be at their respective homes.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Prisma Health-Upstate Foundation, Palliative Care Program, 300 East McBee Avenue, Greenville, South Carolina 29601.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Cemetery

303 North Avenue
Greer, SC 29650

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 8. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

The Wood Mortuary, Inc.
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Service

MAY 8. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Wood Mortuary Chapel
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Tribute Wall



“ *The Wood Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Paula Tate Brown*



The Wood Mortuary - May 05, 2025 at 03:30 PM

ZT

“ *Zachary Turner lit a candle in memory of Paula Brown*



Zachary Turner - May 07, 2025 at 11:30 PM

ZT

“ *Zachary Turner lit a candle in memory of Paula Brown*



Zachary Turner - May 07, 2025 at 11:28 PM

EE

“ A week has passed, yet words still seem elusive. I am thankful to have Paula in our life. She was smart, caring and entertaining. There is so much to learn from how she could see through things and cut to the heart of the matter so a solution could arise. But, she also wasn't afraid to laugh at herself, which always lightened the atmosphere. Her compassion for others and shared joy will be a memory for us all to enjoy in the years that follow.

E & E - May 06, 2025 at 09:28 AM

BC

“ Paula had a unique gift of the chemistry of life. Her mixture of love, friendship, and humor brought many smiles to my face and warmed my heart over the years. My life was made better for having known her as a devoted and genuine friend. I know that she was prepared to meet her Savior and Lord. Rest peacefully in His arms my sweet one.



Barry Cason - May 05, 2025 at 02:52 PM

JF

“ Julie Faulk lit a candle in memory of Paula Brown



Julie Faulk - May 05, 2025 at 01:42 PM



“ Peace be with yall during this difficult time.

Flo Townson - May 05, 2025 at 11:59 AM

TS

“ *The staff of Stokes Music Studios lit a candle in memory of Paula Brown*



The staff of Stokes Music Studios - May 03, 2025 at 12:09 PM

LA

“ *What a battle Paula had! I sure will remember the fun times we had together and music venues we shared. Paula always made it fun. She was a brilliant teacher and she also was a wonderful painter. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Gonna miss ya.*

Laura K Aiken - May 02, 2025 at 08:51 PM

NL

“ *I am so sorry to learn this news. Paula and I were colleagues at Hillcrest High. We later crossed paths when she was teaching at risk students. She always had a heart for helping kids and was an advocate for the underserved. I am saddened by her passing. She was a sweet friend who made a difference in the lives of so many.*

Nita Lyda - May 02, 2025 at 07:07 PM

MT

“ *Harry Lee and Bonne, I am so sorry. Paula was a beautiful person, and she will definitely be missed by her family and friends. Knowing she is now reunited with Andrea, Lee, Bill and her precious mother and free from pain we can smile because we know she is happy and has seen the beautiful face of Jesus. Prayers for you as you grieve this precious daughter and sister. Mertie Taylor*



Mertie Taylor - May 02, 2025 at 03:13 PM

LC

“ Dearest Family of beloved Paula ... My husband Butch grew up with Paula and remembers many wonderful memories. I had the honor of meeting Paula a few years ago. Our energy immediately clicked. We shared stories and laughter over martinis! Our hearts are broken on the tragic loss of your beautiful Paula. May her memory be for a blessing. Butch Fowler & Lynn Chanin

Lynn Handmacher Chanin - May 02, 2025 at 03:12 PM

LM

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Paula's passing. She was a delight to have in our hall at HHS. We spoke a little French as she came down the hall each morning. She had a witty sense of humor and could make you laugh, no matter the mood. Her Chemist-tree poster at Christmas just showed her personality and love of working her passion into the time of year. God bless you, Paula, and your family. You will be missed,
Lilly Mikol

Lilly Mikol - May 02, 2025 at 02:54 PM

DG

“ What a loss to the world. I remember her sweet smile and wicked sense of humor. We had fun in Spanish II at Greer High and went on a double date together. Her pain and sickness are over, and she is waiting for us to join her in Glory. Rest in peace, my friend.



Debbie Gordon - May 02, 2025 at 07:16 AM

TG

“ I was one of the many children whose lives she touched profoundly during my fourth grade year at Duncan Elementary in 1983.



That year holds a special, albeit bittersweet, significance for me. It was a time of both great learning and personal challenge for Miss Tate, as she navigated the heartbreaking loss of her sister. Despite this profound personal sorrow, she consistently displayed unwavering dedication to her students, demonstrating a level of professionalism and compassion that deeply resonated with us all. Her passion for teaching wasn't simply a job; it was a vocation, a calling she embraced with every fiber of her being.

I remember her not just as a teacher, but as a caring mentor who fostered a supportive and enriching classroom environment. Her ability to connect with each student on an individual level, understanding our unique needs and fostering our individual potential, was truly remarkable. She instilled in me a love of learning that continues to shape my life to this day. Her legacy extends far beyond the classroom walls of Duncan Elementary; it lives on in the hearts and minds of countless individuals whose lives she touched.

While the pain of her passing is undeniable, the memories of her kindness, dedication, and profound impact will forever remain a source of comfort and inspiration. She will be deeply missed.

Tim Godfrey

Tim Godfrey - May 02, 2025 at 01:03 AM

BT

“ Beverly Turner lit a candle in memory of Paula Brown



Beverly Turner - May 01, 2025 at 07:04 PM

SC

“ Sorry to hear about Paula. Lots of good times through the years. She always had that pretty smile. RIP my friend.

Steve Campbell - May 01, 2025 at 06:47 PM

DS

“ We ventured to a college and a university together. Paula was a great friend and always fun to share things in life with, always good for an adventure. She even talked me into an archeological dig. So many life explorations with my friend. Heaven will be our next adventure one day. My sincere prayers for Dad and Bonne. We will meet again when we are taken up.

dr Lynne schettino-Defelice - May 01, 2025 at 06:45 PM

BC

Paula had a unique gift of the chemistry of life. Her mixture of love, friendship, and humor brought many smiles to my face and warmed my heart over the years. My life was made better for having known her as a devoted and genuine friend. I know that she was prepared to meet her Savior and Lord. Rest peacefully in His arms my sweet one.

Barry Cason - May 02, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ *Ms. Brown was my chemistry teacher at BRHS and one of the only teachers who made science fun for me. You will be missed.*
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Candace Lamb - May 01, 2025 at 06:34 PM

SF

“ *Sue Fowler lit a candle in memory of Paula Brown*



Sue Fowler - May 01, 2025 at 04:26 PM

DO

“ *DEBBIE OWENSBY lit a candle in memory of Paula Brown*



DEBBIE OWENSBY - May 01, 2025 at 04:00 PM

GR

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of friends of Paula Tate Brown. Paula and I were both part of the Greer HS graduating class of 1971. Rest in Peace, Paula. God knows you deserve it after your ordeal.*

*Gary Rogers
Greer HS Class of '71*

Gary Rogers - May 01, 2025 at 02:43 PM

LR

“ *The Tate family has been a big part of my life for MANY years. I remember well the early morning we were leaving for California. I saw Paula sitting in a rocking chair, on her front porch, watching. I walked across the street, and we hugged and cried, not knowing what the future held for us. After all, we had been the best of best friends practically since birth. Years later we reconnected and I'm so glad we did. We just picked up where we left off. I can honestly say the last 30 years of Paula and Laurie have been amazing. I will greatly miss our "Thelma and Louise" adventures. I will miss your beautiful smile, sense of humor and your infectious laugh. We always had one another's back. You will always be in my heart. I love you more than you will ever know. Go and be free. Go with God. Till we meet again.*

Laurie

Laurie Rebik - May 01, 2025 at 02:21 PM